(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the total loss incurred by DMS, as on date; and

(c) the action taken by Government to makeover the loss and for making DMS profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The Proforma Accounts for the current year 2006-07 will be prepared after the end of this financial year.

(c) The following steps have been taken for improving the profitability of DMS:

(i) Adopting professional approach in different areas of operation such as marketing, transportation and plant operations for increasing overall efficiency.

(ii) To reduce the expenditure, packing of milk in Central Dairy is being completed in two shifts against three shifts.

(iii) Modernization of the obsolete plant, machinery and equipment is being undertaken to reduce the cost.

(iv) Various efficiency parameters such as average daily sale of milk, milk handled per unit of electricity, percentage of loss of liquid milk and reduction in cash losses, etc. are monitored on a monthly basis.

(v) Union Cabinet has recently given 'in principal' approval for Corporatisation of DMS as a long term measure to make it commercially viable.

Decrease in production of foodgrains

†439. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of foodgrains are continuously decreasing as a result of reduction in the size of arable land, decline in its fertility and lack of appropriate irrigation facilities alongwith lack of research and invention with regard to high yielding seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last five years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) whether it is also a fact that 34 crore tonnes of foodgrains would be required by the year 2020 to feed the growing population in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The arable land in the country has been fluctuating between 183.07 million hectares in 2000-01 and 183.47 million hectare in 2003-04 (latest available). Following table shows the area under foodgrains, production and their yield during the years 2002-03 to 2006-07:

Year	Foodgrains		
	Production (Million Tonnes)	Area (Million Hectares)	Yield (Kg/Hectare)
2002-03	174.77	113.86	1535
2003-04	213.19	123.45	1727
2004-05	198.36	120.08	1652
2005-06	208.59	121.57	1716
2006-07*	209.17	121.30	1724

*2nd advance estimates released on 5.2.2007

Production of foodgrains and their yield per hectare show an increasing trend in this period. The year to year fluectuations were mainly caused by the weather related factors. Crop year 2002-03 was a drought year. Monsoon rainfall was inadequate in 2004-05. There was abnormal rise in temperature in some States at the time of grain formation of wheat in 2005-06. About 60% of net sown area is rainfed. About 40% area under foodgrains is irrigated which make agriculture production in India heavily influencd by rainfall.

(c) About 28.26 crore tonnes of foodgrains would be required for the year 2020-21 to feed the growing population in the country, according to an estimate.

(d) In order to increase the production of cereals in the country, Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Area (ICDP-Rice), Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Wheat) and Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals)" are under implementation. Another

Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is under implementation to increase the production of pulses. During the last 5 years large number of varieties and their production-protection technologies have been developed for different ecologies in different food crops. Besides, frontline demonstrations are conducted for transfer of technology and breeder seeds for different crops are made available to the State agencies. All these measures are expected to result in overall increase in production of foodgrains.

Suicides by farmers

†440. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total number of farmers committed suicide since July, 2006 till date, State-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken to solve this serious problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) A statement indicating state-wise figures of suicide during recent years as reported by the State Governments is annexed *(see* below).

(b) Farmers are committing suicides broadly due to the following reasons:

• Crop failure

• Indebtedness

• Drought

• Social & economic insecurity.

(c) The Government of India has taken several initiatives in this regard as indicated below:

A rehabilitation package for 31 suicide prone Districts in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala involving a total amount of Rs. 16978.69 crore has been approved by the Government of India.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.